

Neighbor Appreciation Day Art Contest Winners Honored

GREETING CARDS ARE HERE



l-r: Mayor Nickels with Anna Podenski, Emily Gu, Tammy Hsu, Lanisha Secrest, Stephanie Savidge

Mayor Greg Nickels and the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods are pleased to announce Lanisha Secrest, a fifth grader at Dunlap Elementary School in southeast Seattle, is the winner of a city-wide student art contest for the 2003 Neighbor Appreciation Day greeting card. Lanisha's vibrant crayon drawing of neighbors playing catch will appear on the cover of 17,000 cards available now to residents throughout Seattle.

Mayor Nickels and Department of Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez hosted a celebration in honor of Lanisha and the four other art contest winners the day before Neighbor Appreciation Day. Parents, teachers, and two school principals also joined the students for the celebration, along with

(Art contest winners, continued on page 3)

Ballard P-Patch Takes Root

By Joe Cloude, Parks Volunteer

Groundswell is excited to announce the near completion of Ballard's newest open space project following almost four years of community effort. Our wonderful new **Thyme Patch** Park is a combination of a neighborhood park and a P-Patch garden. Located on the south side of NW 58th St just east of 30th Ave NW, the park is gorgeous! Features include demonstration gardens, seating areas, and community gardening plots, and the park is fully accessible to wheelchairs. The entrance stairs also feature a hand-crafted steel handrail by Groundswell's own talented artist Chuck Nafziger. Come by and see for yourself – look for the distinctive Seattle Parks Department sign on the south side of the street. Now that the days are getting longer again, we look forward to seeing Thyme Patch filled with gardeners growing their own flowers and veggies, and families with young children enjoying the park.

Thyme Patch features several unique and trend-setting features. Believe it or not, this is the first time in the City of Seattle that a P-Patch has been built in a city park – a “groundbreaking” precedent. The Department of Neighborhoods and the Department of Parks and Recreation together developed new policies to allow this project to happen. This park could become a model for the rest of the City. Also, the Master Gardeners of Seattle have agreed to take responsibility for designing, installing, and maintaining the park plantings, which should result in some very fine demonstration gardens. The park also contains a beautiful bench dedicated to the memory of former Groundswell board member Greg Edeen, who worked very hard to make this park a success.

(Ballard, continued on page 2)

(Ballard, continued from page 1)

Local gardeners, take note: there are a number of P-Patch plots still available. If you are interested in having a plot, please contact Wendy McClure at the Department of Neighborhoods' P-Patch office at (206) 615-1787. There is still work to be done, as we intend to build several accessible garden plots, some composting bins, and a tool shed. These will be built in the coming year with volunteer help. The composting bins will use coffee grounds from our local Ballard Starbucks, among other materials, hopefully making sufficient excess compost available to local residents in need of good, rich soil-building material.

Thyme Patch is a wonderful addition to our neighborhood so let's celebrate it! One way to do that is to keep an eye out for announcements about upcoming work parties in the year ahead where you can lend a hand. Naturally, anyone interested in participating in these community-building activities is always welcome. Lastly, Groundswell would like to thank those local foundations organizations that supported Thyme Patch with grants, including the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund, Starbucks, Safeco, the Seattle Foundation, the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Ferguson Foundation, and King County Councilmember Larry Phillips and his fellow Councilors. You've helped create a wonderful new community resource that will enhance the area a help build community for years to come.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Ideas Fair - March 29, 2003



It's fun! It's inspiring! It's a sharing of ideas, expertise, resources. And it's free! It's the Neighborhood Matching Fund Ideas Fair on March 29 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway. Through the Neighborhood Matching Fund, you can apply for City dollars to make improvements in your neighborhood. Come see and hear how other neighborhoods are using the Neighborhood Matching Fund for projects ranging from parks to neighborhood events to farmers markets. You'll learn how to put the Matching Fund to use in your neighborhood. Whether you are in the "just thinking about a project idea" stage, in the "ready to apply for money" stage, or in the midst of a project, this is the place to be!

The first hour of the workshop from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. will feature displays of successful projects including playgrounds, computer centers, traffic improvements, public art, facility improvements, design projects, festivals and events, and more. You can informally discuss ideas, strategies, and hear success stories, then visit the fundraising resource table where successful fundraisers will answer your questions and offer hints about what worked for their projects.

(Ideas Fair, continued on page 7)

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Please address submissions
and questions to:
Editor, Neighborhood News
Natasha Jones
Department of Neighborhoods
700 3rd Ave., Ste 400
Seattle WA 98104
ph: (206) 615-0950
TDD: (206) 684-0464
natasha.jones@seattle.gov

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(Art contest winners, continued from page 1)



Jim Moran of SAFECO. The company has been a strong supporter of Neighbor Appreciation Day since its inception nine years ago and continued that support this year by covering printing costs for the greeting cards.

2003 marked the ninth annual Neighbor Appreciation Day, which actually grew out of a local newspaper story about "Neighbors from Hell." Phinney Ridge resident Judith Wood asked, rather than dwell on neighbors like that, why not celebrate neighbors who make our neighborhoods wonderful places to live? She asked then-Mayor Norm Rice to designate "a special day to celebrate the goodness in those around us and to reach out and strengthen our bonds to each other."

Today, Wood is still active in her own neighborhood as the new Director of Volunteers for the Phinney Neighborhood Association. She says she originally envisioned the day as a time for person-to-person greetings, rather than large celebrations. However, she is pleased with how the day has evolved. "Holding neighborhood events of various kinds does help us all to make and maintain connections with our neighbors," Wood said. "I'm proud and happy that my idea has been kept alive for 9 years and I hope that it has been meaningful for other people too. I still think it is as important as ever. As our neighborhoods change and evolve, I think we need to

work to make connections with our new neighbors, as well as keeping up the ties we've developed over the years."

FREE GREETING CARDS AVAILABLE

Limited quantities of cards are free to schools, community organizations, and individuals throughout Seattle. The cards are available at all 13 of the Department's Neighborhood Service Centers, and at the Citizens Service Bureau on the first floor of the Municipal Building in downtown Seattle. For a list of service centers, visit the Department of Neighborhoods website at www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/nsc. You can also obtain cards by calling Natasha Jones at (206) 615-0950 or sending e-mail to natasha.jones@seattle.gov.

Scanned images of the top five pieces of artwork from the Neighbor Appreciation Day art contest can be seen on the Department of Neighborhoods Website at www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/appday/default.htm.

2003 NEIGHBOR APPRECIATION DAY ART CONTEST WINNERS

Place	Name	School
First	Lanisha Secrest, 5th grade	Dunlap Elementary School
Second	Stephanie Savidge, 11th grade	West Seattle High School
Third	Emily Gu, 2nd grade	Bryant Elementary School
Honorable Mention	Anna Podenski, 5th grade	Wedgwood School
Honorable Mention	Tammy Hsu, 5th grade	Wedgwood School

Video of the art contest awards event airs this month on the city's cable station, the Seattle Channel, and on its website at www.seattlechannel.org/media/default.htm. Click 'Viewing Room', then 'Ar-

chives,' then 'press conferences'.



Department of Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez at the Madrona Neighbor Appreciation Day event honoring members of the military.

Mayor's Neighborhood Tours

Join Mayor Greg Nickels for a tour of Uptown Tuesday, March 11, from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. The tour will be followed by an open house from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. The event celebrates the new Uptown Neighborhood Center, which houses the Uptown Alliance, the Easter Seals of Washington, and the Department of Neighborhoods' Queen Anne/Mag-



Mayor's Yesler Terrace Tour, February 18, 2003

olia Neighborhood Service Center. Meet at 157 Roy Street. For more information, contact John Leonard at (206) 684-4812 or via email at john.leonard@seattle.gov

In February, the Mayor met with residents in the Yesler Terrace community and had the opportunity to get a firsthand look at improvements the Seattle Department of Transportation made along 12th Avenue. The changes have helped with the economic development of the area known as "Little Saigon." The street and parking improvements grew out of concerns raised by the Yesler Terrace community.

During the February tour, the Mayor also visited community gardens along the southwest portion of the Yesler Terrace campus, which have become part of the cultural tradition of immigrant communities in Yesler Terrace while also deterring illegal activities in community open spaces. Most of the community gardens are the work of Southeast Asian residents, however East African resi-

dents have requested additional programs and are working with Department of Neighborhoods staff through the Cultivating Communities Program to expand gardens there.

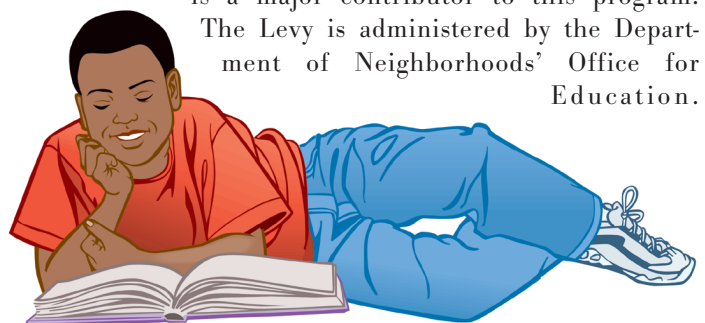
Neighborhood District Coordinator Jose Cervantes also coordinated the participation of Community Crime Prevention Coordinators in the tour. They were able to talk with the Mayor about coordinated efforts between City departments that have helped clean up the area and reduce illegal activities. Overall, the tours are a chance for residents, community leaders, and the Mayor to update each other on what's happening in their community.

The text tour takes place Tuesday, April 22 in Lake City, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, contact Ed Pottharst at (206) 684-7526 or via email at ed.pottharst@seattle.gov

K-12 Literacy Initiative making a difference in student achievement among African Americans

A recent analysis of Seattle's K-12 Literacy Initiative shows that, among other results, African American students who previously did not meet the state's reading standards doubled their pass rate after spending two or more years with Literacy Initiative trained teachers. The Literacy Initiative is a district-wide staff development program in Seattle Public Schools that focuses on student achievement in reading, writing and thinking.

The City of Seattle's Families and Education Levy is a major contributor to this program. The Levy is administered by the Department of Neighborhoods' Office for Education.

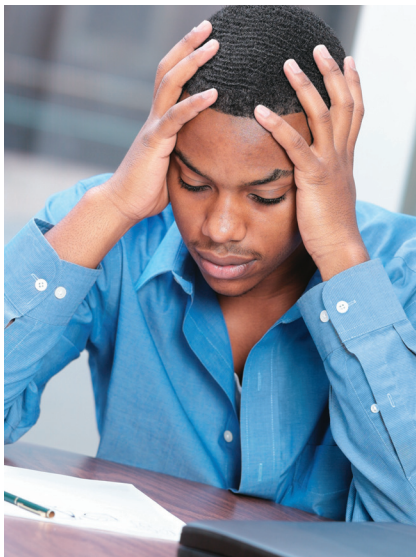


The Boeing Company provides other funds via the nonprofit Alliance for Education.

Since 2000, over 1,300 educators representing 85 schools have participated in intensive literacy training led by the National Urban

Alliance. More than 800 educators are enrolled this year. The training consists of 12 interactive daylong Saturday classes, two August sessions, and 10 follow-up classroom coaching visits, in which teachers gain instructional strategies and skills to reach every student regardless of subject area or the student's background or learning style.

The analysis indicates that teachers' consistent use of Literacy Initiative strategies contributes to students' increased progress on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) reading and writing scores. Among African American students, the reading pass rate was 12% for those without literacy-trained teachers and 26% for those who spent two years in the classrooms with teachers who participated in the professional development program. The writing pass rate was 22% for African American students without literacy-trained teachers and 31% for African American students who had spent two years with literacy-trained teachers.



Neighborhood Matching Fund 2003 Deadlines

The Neighborhood Matching Fund supports grassroots action within neighborhoods. The Matching Fund provides cash to match community contributions of volunteer labor, donated professional services or materials, or cash in support of neighborhood-based self-help projects that benefit a neighborhood.

All Neighborhood Matching Fund applications are available from our offices in the Arctic Building at 700 3rd Avenue in downtown Seattle, at your local Neighborhood Service Center, and on the internet. For a complete set of guidelines, lists of projects, and applications online, go to www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods and click on "Neighborhood Matching Fund." ♦

SMALL AND SIMPLE PROJECTS FUND 2003 deadlines:

January 27, July 21,
and October 20

LARGE PROJECTS FUND 2003 deadlines:

Letter of Intent:
Monday, February 3

Application:
Monday, May 5

Get Involved in Your Neighborhood curriculum: Washington Middle School

By Thomas Whittemore, Involving All Neighbors Program

The Involving All Neighbors (IAN) program concentrated much of its efforts recently on a Get Involved in Your Neighborhood project at Washington Middle School. The program curriculum and workshop teaches people the first steps for community involvement by identifying personal interests that can be contributed to community life. Participants work in teams to identify neighborhood resources, create a Get Out There plan (GO), carry out the plan in their neighborhood, and then come to a celebration to share their community involvement story.

THE PLAN

The project plan involved bringing students, teachers, and community members together to help students learn about their school community, promote inclusive education, develop service learning opportunities for students with and without disabilities, build working relationships between students with and without disabilities, and bring neighborhoods and school communities together.

First step: working with many neighborhood leaders and organizations to identify places where students could visit and possibly volunteer. Next: developing a team made up of teachers and Department of Neighborhoods' staff, then adapting the curriculum to fit classroom schedules and several field days for the students to make meaningful connections to nearby organizations and businesses.

THE PROJECT

During November and December the students identified their personal interests, created team identity, and mapped their home neighborhoods. Then, seven teams of four to six students with and without disabilities explored and mapped the school's neighborhood. From these explorations, each group identified a different community organization and volunteer opportunity and interviewed neighborhood organizations about potential service learning projects, culminating in a Get Involved plan. Students spent two school sessions carrying out their neighborhood project with a sponsoring organization.



THE CELEBRATION

A celebration of these experiences took place in January at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. Each team presented their story of community involvement to other students, teachers, the school principal, community members and directors in the Department of Neighborhoods.

The workshop taught us how this curriculum continues to

be flexible and adaptive to different audiences and communities. This created opportunities to build partnerships between the community, school, and city government.

WHAT'S NEXT

Next steps for the project include meeting with the Central District community to evaluate the program and seek ways to sustain this exciting community building effort. We will also carry out a pilot project in a Seattle High School this year and rewrite the curriculum given the experiences in our communities so that we may publish a final product of use to many citizens throughout the area.

Special thanks go to the students, for their enthusiasm for the projects; Melanie Richardson, a member of our Action in Community Team, who worked under contract with the IAN program to promote, organize, facilitate, and further refine

the Get Involved in Your Neighborhood curriculum in a school room environment; science teacher, Stella Bass and special education teacher, Katherine O'Leary, from Washington Middle School, who had worked together in the past and were enthused about this unique learning opportunity; and the numerous Central District businesses and organizations that helped make this project possible.

CAMP

ISAIAH EDWARDS MEMORIAL ART GARDEN

SEATTLE MEDIUM, KRIZ, KYIZ AND KZIZ

DOUGLASS-TRUTH LIBRARY

STARBUCKS

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES

SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER

POWERFUL VOICES/GIRLS RAP

SEATTLE FIRE STATION #6

CITY YEAR

YWCA YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER

SEATTLE VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE (SVI)

GAI'S BAKERY

THE FOOD BANK @ ST. MARY'S

JIMI HENDRIX HOUSE

PRATT FINE ARTS CENTER

ODESSA BROWN CHILDREN'S CLINIC

LANGSTON HUGHES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER:

KAWABE HOUSE

THE KEIRO HOUSE

For more information on locating these neighborhood resources and treasures, or on getting involved in you neighborhood, contact Thomas Whittemore at (206) 733-9586 or via email at thomas.whittemore@seattle.gov, Carolyn Carlson at (206) 684-0448 or carolyn.carlson@seattle.gov, or Allynn Ruth at (206) 684-0301 or allynn.ruth@seattle.gov

(Ideas Fair, continued from page 2)

In the second hour from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., you will have a choice of four different workshop and **learn about two new initiatives being offered by the Department of Neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Matching Fund.**

- NEW! Race relations and social justice projects.
- New and improved neighborhood organizing projects.
- Writing a competitive application.
- How to get started with a neighborhood project.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided. Don't miss this chance to see what other neighborhoods have done and to talk with experienced neighborhood activists on how to pull it all together! Call the Department of Neighborhoods at (206) 684-0464 for more information.

Free Directory of Elected Officials Now Available

The League of Women Voters' 2003 edition of **They Represent You, A Citizen's Directory of Elected Officials** is now available. This year, the directory has been expanded to include a section recognizing the important role of neighborhoods in Seattle with contact information for the City Neighborhood Council, District Councils, neighborhood and business groups, and Neighborhood Service Centers.

The 32-page guide includes contact information for public officials at all levels of government, as well as voter

registration information, links to civic television stations and other sources to enable voters to get involved in public policy decision making. To receive a copy of *They Represent You*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

League of Women Voters of Seattle
1402-18th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122

To receive large quantities, please call the League at (206) 329-4848 to arrange for a pickup time. For further information, call the League at the phone number above or email info@seattlelwg.org, or go to www.seattle.wa.lwg.org



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